



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

LEGACY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCES IN LUNG CANCER RESEARCH

DEADLINE: August 14, 2013

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Uniting Against Lung Cancer announces funding opportunities for research aimed at improved treatment and a cure for lung cancers. Last year, Uniting Against Lung Cancer funded over \$1.4 million in research; we look forward to increasing our support this year.

The Foundation is prioritizing novel ideas with potential to make a significant impact on current treatment of lung cancer and patient survival, adding years rather than months. We have placed high priority on funding research that has a clear path to clinical application and/or therapeutic development. Proposals for basic science are greatly aided by a forward-looking research plan outlining clinical potential.

UALC funding is intended primarily as seed money for promising and potentially transformative new projects, rather than funding projects that already receive considerable support. Cross discipline collaborations are strongly encouraged. Proposals do not require large amounts of preliminary data, but must have a clear hypothesis and research plan to be completed within the two year grant term.

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Novel projects with potential to cure lung cancers**
- **Genetic subsets of lung cancer / personalized medicine**
- **Primary and secondary drug sensitivity / resistance**
- **Lung cancer in never-smokers**
- **Improving outcomes in early stage disease**
- **Small cell lung cancer**

Proposals should be focused on translational science, use clinically relevant biospecimens when possible, and incorporate predictive **biomarkers** of response or resistance as appropriate. Applicants leveraging pre-existing data-sets, annotated clinical samples, etc. are strongly encouraged to demonstrate direct and immediate access through letters of support from collaborators.

**UALC has historically not funded projects on smoking-induced non-small cell lung cancer. Smoking-associated projects are limited to small cell lung cancer.*

Past recipients and funded projects can be viewed here:

<http://unitingagainstlungcancer.org/research/funded-research>

ELIGIBILITY

Principal Investigators (PIs) should hold a faculty appointment or be mentored by a faculty member in good standing at a not-for-profit academic, medical or research institution, within the United States or Canada. Applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens in order to apply or receive a Uniting Against Lung Cancer grant, but must have a valid visa for the length of the grant.

Investigators at all levels, including Postdoctoral and Clinical Fellows, will be funded through the Legacy Program and are encouraged to apply. UALC is dedicated to bringing new researchers into the field of lung cancer. In addition to funding the highest quality science, we have prioritized providing start-up funds for early-career investigators to build the foundation for a lung cancer research program. Collaborations with industry partners are also strongly encouraged; however the Principal Investigator is required to be an academic researcher.

- **Young Investigator (Clinical and Postdoctoral Fellows)**
Young Investigators are required to submit at least **two letters of support**, including one from the applicant's mentor, to be considered for funding. Young Investigators are also required to submit a **Statement of Professional Goals**.
- **Junior Investigator (within 4 years of initial academic appointment)**
Junior Investigators are required to submit at least **one letter of support** from an established scientific mentor to be considered for funding.
- **Experienced Investigator (more than 4 years experience since initial academic appointment)**

Applicants should apply from the sponsoring institution of employment during the grant term. If you will be moving to a new institution before the start of the grant term, please apply from the new institution, including all supporting documents.

RESTRICTIONS: PIs may submit multiple projects but will only be awarded one grant during any grant cycle. Current grantees and grantees awarded during the 2011-2013 grant cycle are also not eligible for this program. Each sponsoring institution will be awarded a maximum of two grants.

TERMS OF AWARD

Each award is for up to \$100,000 to be paid over two years at \$50,000 per year. Indirect costs may represent no more than 10% of the total (\$10,000 indirect + \$90,000 direct costs). UALC does not support travel, equipment, publication or tuition costs. Submission of a standardized and detailed budget with justification is required and can be found in the online application.

Funding is anticipated to begin by **March 1, 2014**. IRB approval for clinical projects is not required for submission but will be required before the grant is awarded. Grantees are required to submit two progress reports—an Interim Report, to be presented in-person at the UALC Investigator Meeting, and a Final Report submitted within 30 days of conclusion of the project. Continuation of funding is contingent upon approval of progress reports.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Our grant application and instructions can be accessed from our website or directly from the online submission system (<https://www.grantinterface.com/UALC/Common/LogOn.aspx>). Please note that applications must be submitted online by **11:59 PM EST, August 14, 2013**. Late applications **will not be accepted**. Mailed applications will not be accepted; all applications must be submitted online.

Application instructions are also found online. The proposal must be formatted to be no smaller than Arial 11 pt or Times 12 pt, with at least ½ inch margins. Improperly formatted narratives will not be reviewed. Applications include:

- 1) Technical Abstract (one-page limit):** Please upload as PDF labeled "LAST NAME -TechAbs.pdf". Please include the elements below.
 - a) **Background:** Present the ideas and reasoning behind the work.
 - b) **Hypothesis / Objective:** State the hypothesis / objective to be tested.
 - c) **Specific Aims:** Concisely state the specific aims of the study.
 - d) **Research Strategy:** Briefly describe the study design.
 - e) **Impact:** Briefly describe how the proposed project, if successful, will have an impact on ending lung cancer.

- 2) Lay Abstract (one-page limit):** Please upload as PDF labeled "LAST NAME -LayAbs.pdf". Clearly describe the rationale, objective and aims of the project for a non-technical audience. Please do not copy the technical abstract.

- 3) Statement of Clinical / Translational Impact (one-page limit):** Please upload as PDF labeled "LAST NAME -Impact.pdf".
 - a) Describe how the proposed study, if successful, will make an important contribution towards clinical approaches to lung cancer.
 - b) Clearly articulate your translational strategy over the next five years to impact clinical approaches to lung cancer.

- 4) Project Narrative (five-page limit):** Please upload as a single PDF labeled "LAST NAME - Narrative.pdf".
 - a) **Background:** Present the ideas and reasoning behind the work, including relevant literature citations and any preliminary data.
 - b) **Hypothesis / Objective:** State the hypothesis / objective to be tested.
 - c) **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.
 - d) **Research Strategy:** Provide a research strategy that supports the translational feasibility and promise of the approach.
 - e) **Outcomes:** Describe the projected outcomes of the study, including potential pitfalls and alternative approaches.

- 5) Supporting Documents:** Start each document on a new page and combine into a single PDF. Please upload as PDF labeled "LAST NAME -Docs.pdf".
- a) **References Cited** (two page maximum)
 - b) **Facilities, Existing Equipment, and other Resources**
 - c) **Current and Pending Research Support:** List all active and pending research support for the applicant. Please resolve any apparent scientific overlap between the proposed study and current support.
 - d) **Letters of Collaboration** (if applicable)
 - e) **Letters of Support:** Young Investigators (Clinical and Postdoctoral Fellows) are required to submit at least two letters of support, including one from the applicant's mentor, to be considered for funding. Junior Investigators are required to submit at least one letter of support from an established scientific mentor to be considered for funding.
 - f) **Statement of Professional Goals** (Young Investigators only)
- 6) Key Personnel:** Provide a brief description of key personnel and role in the proposed project. Please include NIH biosketches of key personnel. Start each biosketch on a new page and combine into a single PDF. Please upload as PDF labeled "LAST NAME -Bios.pdf".
- 7) Budget (no page limit):** Include a detailed budget and justification that covers the projected funding needed. This award provides funding of \$100,000, including a maximum of \$10,000 indirect costs (\$90,000 in direct costs, \$10,000 in indirect costs). Grants will be paid over two years at \$50,000 per year. Grant funds may not be used for tuition, travel or permanent equipment costs. Please upload as PDF labeled "LAST NAME -Budget.pdf". The budget template can be accessed here: <http://unitingagainstlungcancer.org/research/funding-opportunities>.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications are subject to confidential peer review by members of our Medical Committee, composed of leaders in the field, as well as review by UALC Staff and Scientific Program Committee Board Members. Reviewer critiques may be provided, but UALC will not supply feedback for every application. Primary criteria for review will be based on scientific merit and alignment with program objectives outlined above.

LEGAL

Applications will be kept strictly confidential. If selected for funding, applications may be shared under confidentiality with donors who will provide funding for the work.

Upon acceptance of an award, the PI and Sponsoring Institution will be required to sign an agreement accepting Uniting Against Lung Cancer's General Policies and Procedures and Intellectual Property Policy. Full funding is contingent upon review of annual progress reports; grantees will be required to present findings in-person at the UALC Investigator Meeting in November, 2014 to be evaluated by the UALC Medical Committee.

Specific questions can be addressed to:

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About Uniting Against Lung Cancer

Uniting Against Lung Cancer is dedicated to funding innovative research and raising awareness to find a cure for lung cancer. To date, we have awarded over \$10 million dollars to academic investigators engaged in cutting-edge research of lung cancer. We consider our funding venture philanthropy with a return on investment based on scientific progress, follow-on funding from other sources, and increasing the number of promising investigators entering the field of lung cancer research to become the next generation of leaders.